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1962/11/08

NG TELEGRAM Department of State

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Thompson told Ambassadorial Group today that while arrangements

on Cuba offensive weapon problem with Sovs, Cubans, UN and Red Cross were very fluid, there has been rapid progress by the Sovs in loading missiles aboard freighters, some of which have already sailed.

US photographic reconnaissance of removals from sites to ports to vessels, plus expected alongside verification at sea by US Navy (to be done by helicopter in case of bad weather) apparently will satisfy US Govt that Sovs have removed the ^{known} missiles from Cuba.

However, negative evidence that no missiles remain can only be had by on-the-spot verification. Such verification plus removal of IL-28's and safeguards against reintroduction offensive weapons into Cuba remain outstanding issues.

US suspects Sovs will announce by Saturday that all missiles have been removed and thus verification issue no longer relevant and continued quarantine illegal.

On

EUR:JKHolloway:mt
11/8/62

Telegraphic transmission and

classification approved by:

Llewellyn E. Thompson

BTF - Mr. Hillenbrand
SOV - Mr. Guthrie

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(b1)
[On IL-28's, Sovs maintaining these not offensive weapons, although US had specifically mentioned them as such. While US position on removal of IL-28's is firm [public discussion of issue being discouraged in effort allow Khrushchev back down without prestige loss] Matter of safeguards against reintroduction could be handled by Red Cross inspection, although ICRC has stated it will not participate unless Cuban Govt agrees. Cubans have not yet agreed, although they have not refused.]

No information available on Mikoyan talks in Havana.

Thompson noted Sov statements tending to keep Berlin issue in picture, but somewhat played down. Behavior Sov leaders at Nov 7 receptions suggests Sovs attempting project image of good will in speedily carrying out agreements on missile removals.

Thompson expressed gratification at quadripartitely agreed paper on political planning for IAC (TOPOL 613), and urged group continue efforts for agreement on further planning and contingencies connected therewith.

END

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